

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given this Application and the allowance of Claims 16 and 17. Claims 16 and 17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7-12 and 13-15 have been cancelled. No amendments to the claims are submitted at this time.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 7-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,393,816 to Kondo et al. (hereinafter "Kondo"). Claims 1 and 7-12 have been cancelled rendering the Examiner's rejection of these claims moot.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

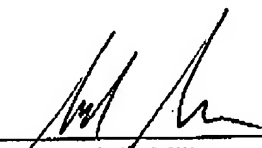
Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled rendering the Examiner's rejection of these claims moot.

The Examiner has acknowledged that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including any fees for an extension of time or those under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, which may be required by this paper, and/or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2527.

Respectfully submitted,

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